

Message Text

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FOR ASST SECRETARY SCHAUFLE) ABIDJAN

EO 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON ANGOLA AND KAUNDA'S REACTION

REF: STATE 1374

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA GRANTED ME AUDIENCE AT 0900 SUNDAY
JANUARY 4 AT WHICH TIME I HANDED HIM PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE
ON ANGOLA. MARK CHONA WAS PRESENT.
2. AFTER CAREFULLY STUDYING MESSAGE, AND UNDERLINING PORTIONS
AS HE READ, KAUNDA SAID IT "CATEGORICALLY SATISFIES ALL OUR
REQUIREMENTS AT THIS TIME." THREE TIMES DURING CONVER-
SATION KAUNDA SAID HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE HIS MOST FAVORABLE
REACTION TO MESSAGE WHICH WAS PRECISELY WHAT HE NEEDED NOW.
3. KAUNDA SAID MOST IMPORTANT THING LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES
SEEKING TRUE PEACE IN ANGOLA SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON AT THIS MOMENT
IS TO PERSUADE ANY AND ALL WHO HAVE DOUBTS THAT TOTAL VICTORY
WHEATHER IT BE EXTRA-CONTINENTAL OR AFRICAN IN ORIGIN HAD NO
RPT NO CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND WOULD BE RESISTED AT ALL COSTS.
NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WAS THE CENTRAL OBJECTIVE AND
HE WAS PLEASED US AND ZAMBIA AGREED ON THIS POINT.
4. KAUNDA TOUCHED ON ZAMBIAN EFFORTS TO DISSUADE SOVIETS FROM
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SUPPORTING CONTINUED ARMED STRUGGLE. HE REFERRED TO RECENT

PRAVDA AND TASS REPORTS THAT SOVIETS CLAIMED NOT RPT NOT TO SEEK ECONOMIC, MILITARY OR ANY OTHER GAIN IN ANGOLA AND WERE FIRMLY FOR TERMINATION OF FOREIGN ARMED INTERVENTION WITH RIGHT RESERVED TO PEOPLE IN ANGOLA TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE. CHONA SAID STATE HOUSE HAD INSTRUCTED LOCAL PRESS TO PLAY UP SOVIET PRESS REPORTS, AS THEY HAVE, BUT WITH NOTE THAT STATEMENTS NOT RPT NOT YET CREDITED DIRECTLY TO SOVIET OFFICIALS. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE STATEMENTS KAUNDA SAID HE HARBORS STRONG MISGIVINGS ABOUT RUSSIAN SINCERITY AND GENUINE WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA.

5. KAUNDA THEN TURNED TO REVIEW OF ZAMBIAN EFFORTS TO DISSUADE CUBANS FROM CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. SAID HIS SPECIAL EMISSARY, REUBEN KAMANGA OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HAD RECENTLY MET WITH FIDEL CASTRO IN HAVANA AND TOLD HIM "IN STRONGEST" TERMS THAT CUBANS SHOULD "NOT REGARD THEMSELVES AS HEROES IN ANGOLA" AND TRY TO IMPOSE A MILITARY SOLUTION FROM OUTSIDE. SAID CASTRO SEEMED SURPRISED. CUBAN CHARGE IN LUSAKA ALSO CALLED IN BY FONMIN BANDA AND PREACHED TO IN STERN LANGUAGEQM KAUNDA SAID, ZAMBIANS ARE EXPECTING VISIT ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 OF TWO RANKING MEMBERS OF CUBAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHOM HE PERSONALLY WILL SEE TO RELIEVE THEM OF ANY DOUBTS THAT CUBANS ARE UNWELCOME IN ANGOLA.

6. I THEN ASKED KAUNDA ABOUT SUCCESS OF ZAMBIAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WITH AFRICAN HARDLINERS. HE CONFIRMED WHAT CHONA HAD TOLD ME EARLIER - THAT SLIGHT CRACK WAS APPEARING IN NIGER- IAN THINKING WHICH HELD PROMISE OF MAKING REAL HARDLINERS LIKE GUINEA-BISSAU, CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE, AND ALGERIA THINK TWICE BEFORE OAU SUMMIT.

7. BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT AT CHONA'S REQUEST, I REFERRED TO US REACTION TO EARLIER ZAMBIAN SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING OUR COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES. TOLD KAUNDA WE HAD EXAMINED ZAMBIAN DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR THE OAU SUMMIT SAW MERIT TO IT AN WOULD BE OFFERING A FEW DRAFTING SUGGESTIONS TO STRENGTHEN IT. ALSO WE WERE CONCERNING THEIR SUGGESTION ON AN ADDITIONAL PRE-SUMMIT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE OAU SYG; AND WE HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION AS WELL THE ZAMBIAN SUGGESTION ON THE NEED FOR STEPPED UP PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR- SECRET

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FARE BOTH AGAINST CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND MISGUIDED TOTAL VICTORY CONCEPT OF SOVIET SUPPORTED MPLA FORCES. KAUNDA EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR OUR CONSIDERATION OF HIS SUGGESTIONS AND WELCOME OUR OFFER TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

8. NEITHER KAUNDA IN THIS MEETING OR CHONA IN PRIOR MEETINGS HAS EVER MADE ANY MENTION TO THE SENATE'S VOTE OF DECEMBER 19

REFERRED TO IN PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

9. COMMENT. NEVER IN NEARLY THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS OF DEALING PERSONALLY WITH KAUNDA HAVE I SEEN HIM MORE FIRM OR DETERMINED IN HIS APPROACH TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS ALSO BECOMING MORE TENSE WHICH CLOSE ASSOCIATES SAY OCCASIONALLY IMPEDES HIS QUICK AND FLEXIBLE HANDLING OF EMERGENCIES, COMING AS THEY HAVE WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY OF LATE.
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